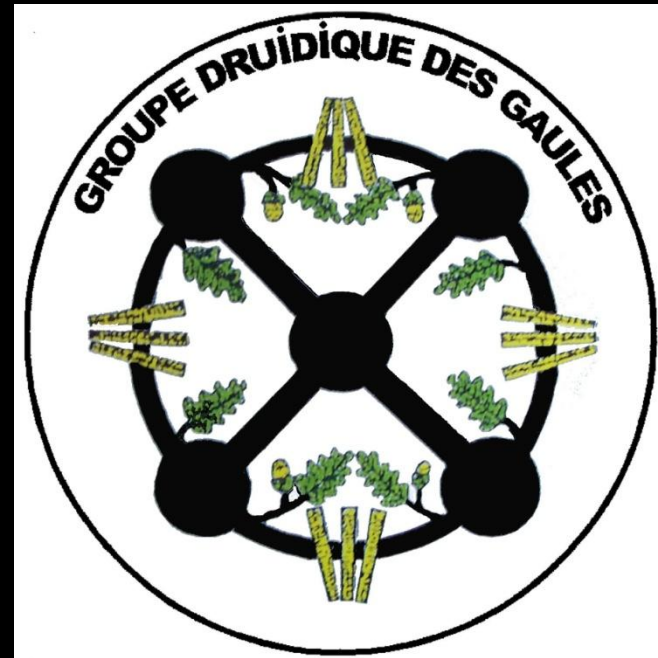




Groupe Druidique
des Gaules



Gallish Druidic Group



No one comes from the Earth like grass.
We come like trees. We all have roots

First were the Celts



Evidence:

- Romans wrote about them
- Halstatt
- La Tene
- Christian writings
- Archaeological evidence.

Iron Age



WHO WERE THE CELTS?



The Celts existed around 800BC to 400AD and were one of the first people in Europe. They inhabited land from Britain to Turkey. They spoke lots of different languages, they spoke Gaulish, Lepontic, Gaelic, Brythonic and lots more.

The Celts migrate

The years 400 to 200BC are a time of movement.

Celts move northwards to Germany and southwards to Italy. Some also invade Hungary, then head south into Greece. Another group of Celts settled in Turkey. At the same time, other Celtic peoples moved into south-western France, Spain, Portugal, Britain and Ireland.



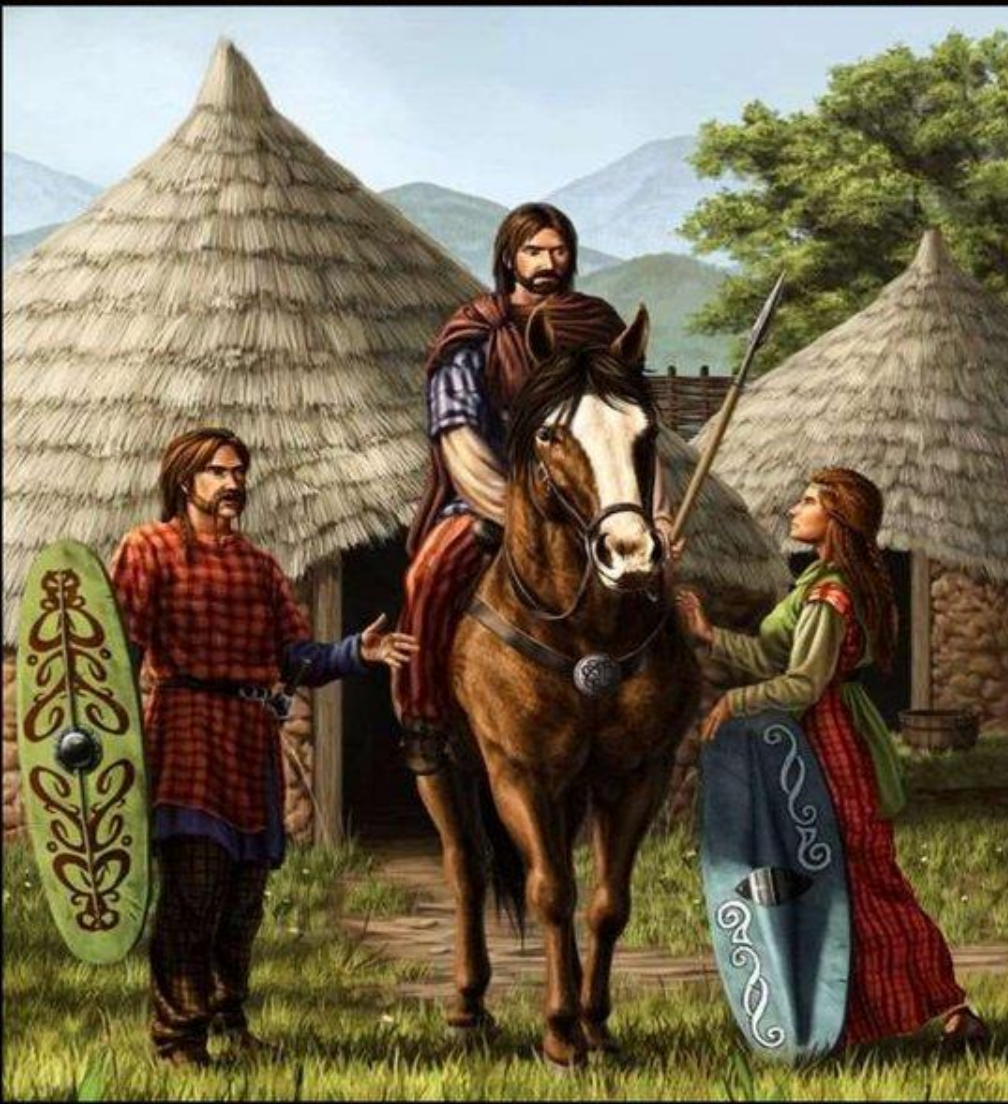
Celts

- **Warrior Aristocracy**
 - **Disunity:** not one empire, rather many separate tribes
 - **Same, similar linguistic group**
- **Society**
 - **Women** may have been given more rights in Celtic society...but lets not get carried away
 - **Druids**
 - **Head Cult?**
- Celtic Migrations
- Rome conquered in 390BCE...



Who were they?

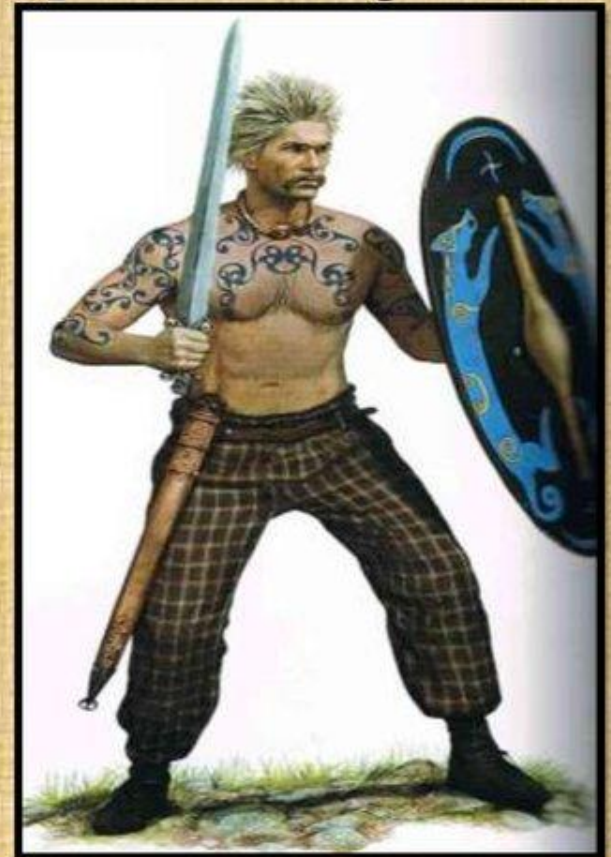
The Iron Age is the age of the "Celt" in Britain. Over the 500 or so years leading up to the first Roman invasion a Celtic culture established itself throughout the British Isles. Who were these Celts? For a start, the concept of a "Celtic" people is a modern and somewhat romantic reinterpretation of history. The "Celts" were warring tribes who certainly wouldn't have seen themselves as one people at the time.



Where did they come from?

What we do know is that the people we call Celts gradually infiltrated Britain over the course of the centuries between about 500 and 100 B.C. There was probably never an organized Celtic invasion; for one thing the Celts were so fragmented and given to fighting among themselves that the idea of a concerted invasion would have been ludicrous.

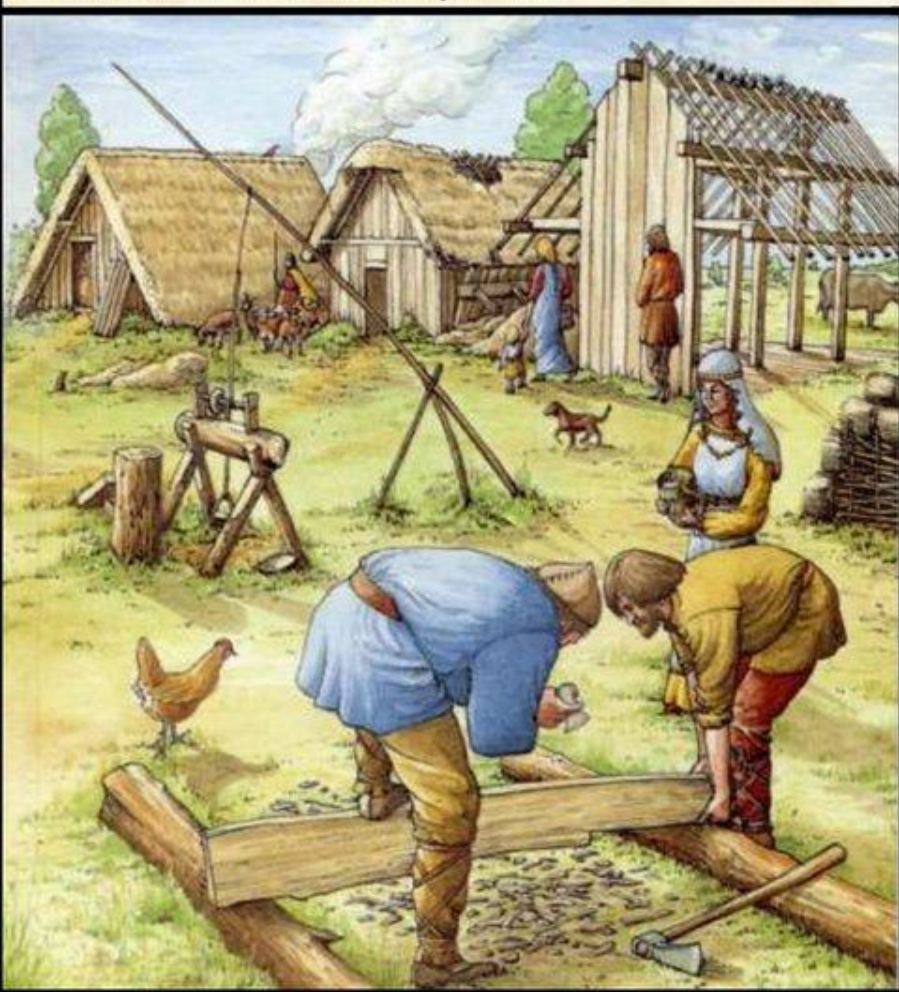
The Celts were a group of peoples loosely tied by similar language, religion, and cultural expression. They were not centrally governed, and quite as happy to fight each other as any non-Celt. They were warriors, living for the glories of battle and plunder. They were also the people who brought iron working to the British Isles.



Mode of life

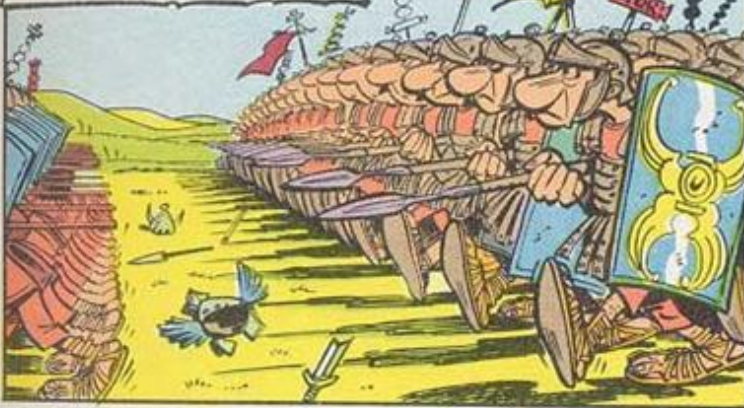
The Celts were distinguished by reverence expressed by the word, so the druids and the Phillida was at a premium. Killing or harming the druids and filida was considered the greatest disgrace and a serious crime. For the ancient Irish, every sickness was equivalent to death. So the Royal throne in any case could not take a cripple, or a mentally ill person.

During the meal, great company sat in a circle. The Celts sat on the ground, or spread the furs, sometimes they had a low table. Periodically organized meetings-the holidays. They were accompanied by merrymaking, primarily equestrian competitions and Mart, exchange and communication of every kind.



In 50 BC, Gaul was conquered by romans

EN 50 AVANT J.C., NOS ANCTRES LES GAULOIS AVAIENT ETÉ VAINCUS PAR LES ROMAINS, APRÈS UNE LONGUE LUTTE...



DÉS CHEFS TELS QUE VERGINGETORIX DOIVENT DÉPOSER LEURS ARMES AUX PIEDS DE CÉSAR...



LA PAIX S'EST INSTALLÉE, TROUBLÉE PAR QUELQUES ATTAQUES DE GERMAINS, VITE REPOUSSEES...

MAIS ADDENTZION! ON REFIENDRA!

PON! PON! ON S'EN FA...



TOUTE LA GAULE EST OCCUPÉE...



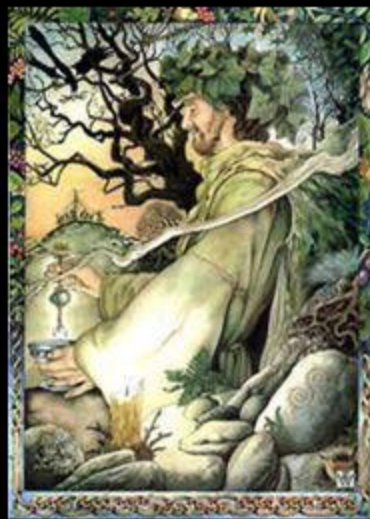
TOUTE ? NON! CAR UNE RÉGION RÉSISTE VICTORIEUSEMENT À L'ENVAHISSEUR. UNE PETITE RÉGION ENTOURÉE DE CAMPS RETRANCHÉS ROMAINS...



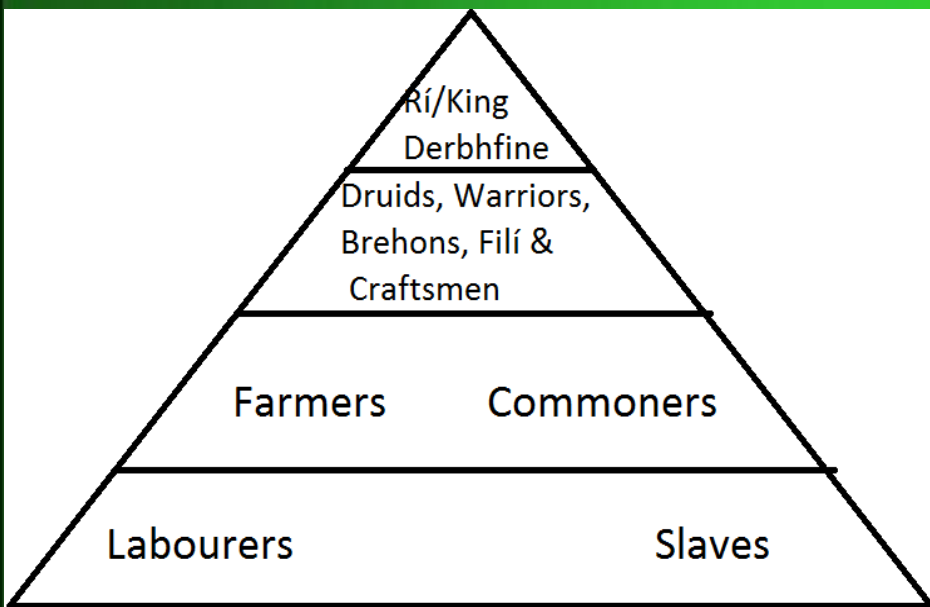


Celtic Society

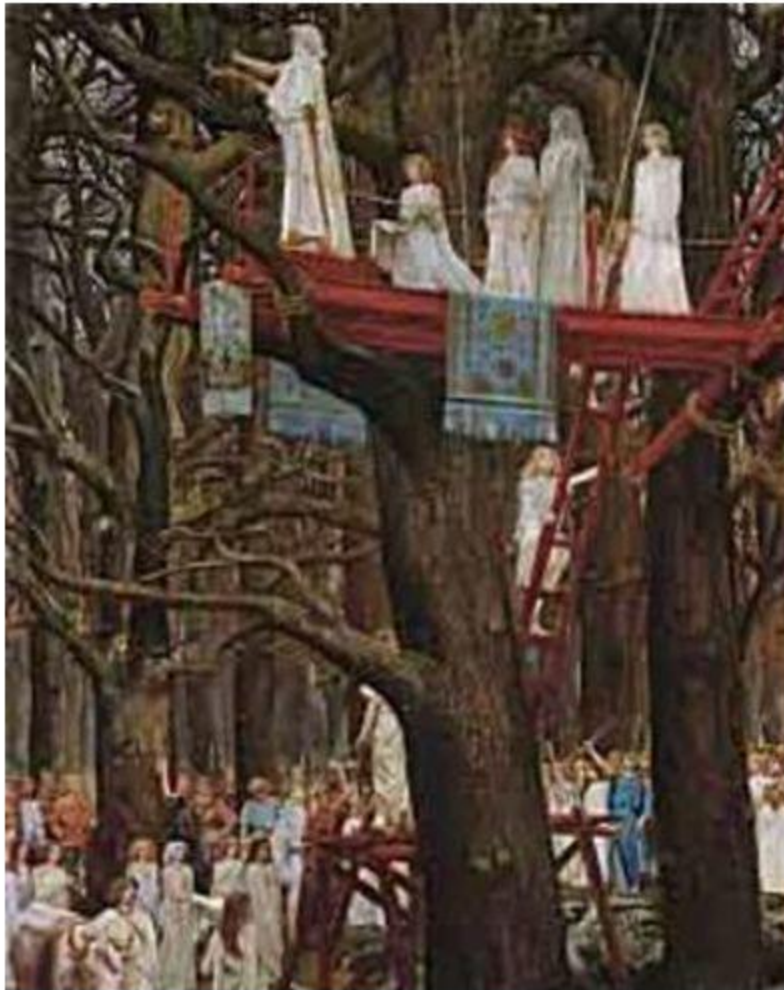
- Celtic society was divided into an elite class of warriors, professional groups of priests and bards, and the common people.
- The warriors owned land and livestock and monopolized wealth and power.
- Warriors fought naked and took heads
- The priests, called Druids, who believed in reincarnation, were teachers and judges as well as religious leaders.



DRUIDS



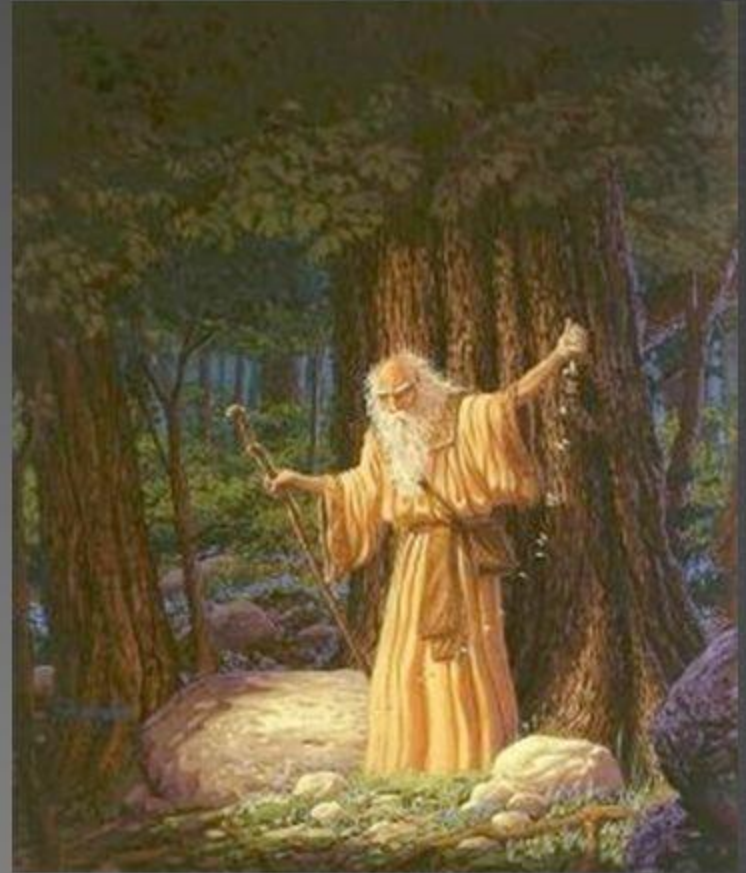
Pre-historical/Pre-Roman (con't)



- Celts were pagans – believed in “animism,” from the Latin word *spirits*
- Druids were their priests
 - Role: Go between the gods and the people

Ancient Druids

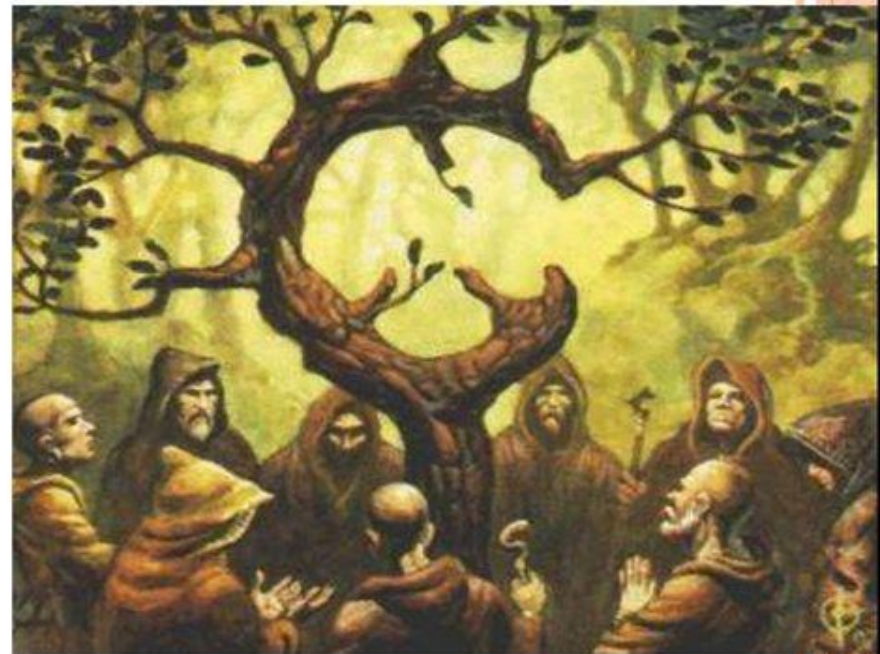
- ▶ At the top of society were the chief priests, or Druids.
- ▶ Composed hymns, poems, and historical records.
- ▶ Served as judges.
- ▶ Conducted religious ceremonies in the woods or at sites such as Stonehenge.



○ *THE DRUIDS— IN PRE-CHRISTIAN SOCIETY FORMED AN INTELLECTUAL CLASS OF PHILOSOPHERS, JUDGES, TEACHERS, DOCTORS, ASTRONOMERS AND ASTROLOGERS. VERY OFTEN THE DRUIDS WERE EVEN MORE POWERFUL THAN TRIBAL CHIEFS, BECAUSE PRIESTS ADVISED THEM IN ALL DIFFICULT MATTERS.*

○ *THE WORD "DRUID" IS OF CELTIC ORIGIN, EMERGED FROM THE COMBINATION OF "DRUS" (MEANING A TREE, USUALLY AN OAK), AND "WID" (MEANING KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM).*

○ *SO IN THE CELTIC SOCIAL SYSTEM "DRUID" WAS A TITLE GIVEN TO LEARNED MEN AND WOMEN POSSESSING "OAK KNOWLEDGE" (OR "OAK WISDOM").*



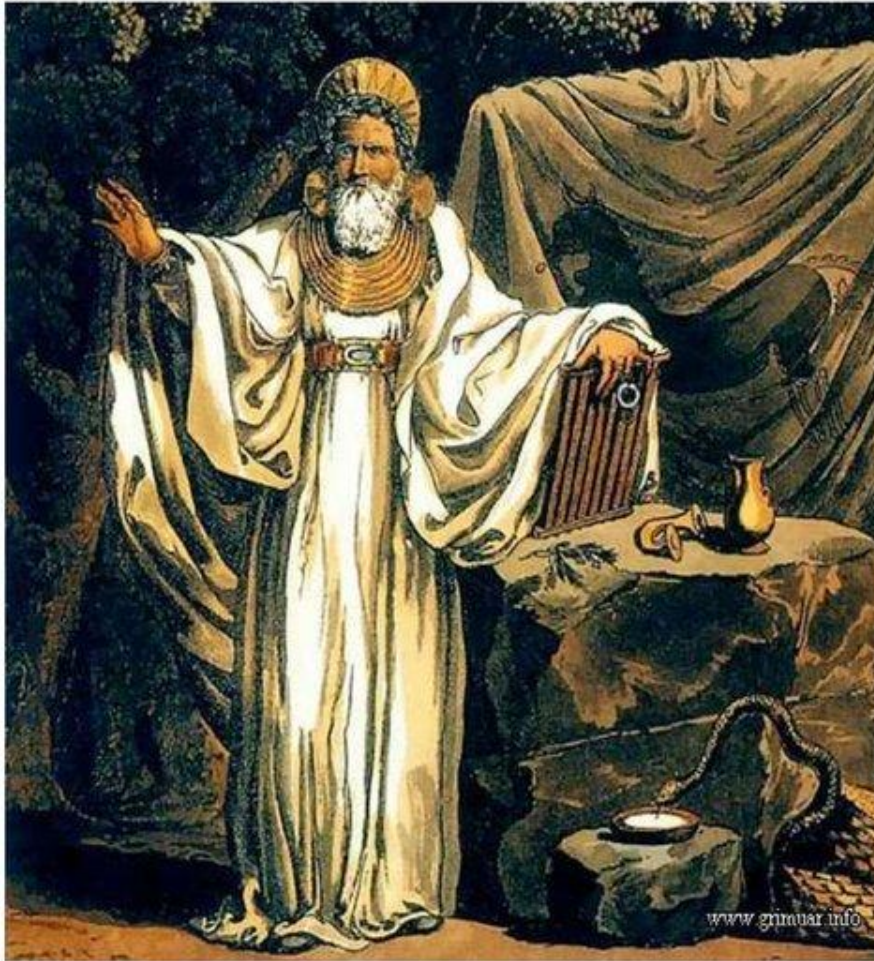
○ *TO BECOME A DRUID STUDENTS ASSEMBLED IN LARGE GROUPS FOR INSTRUCTION AND TRAINING. THIS PERIOD OF TRAINING COULD LAST UP TO TWENTY YEARS.*

○ *MANY STUDENTS WERE WOMEN. CELTIC WOMEN HAD MORE FREEDOM AND RIGHTS THAN WOMEN IN ANY OTHER CONTEMPORARY CULTURE.*



*THEY COULD BECOME WARRIORS,
ENTER BATTLES, DIVORCE HUSBANDS
AND RULE THE TRIBE.*





- Great influence in Celtic Druids used the priests, which were concentrated in the hands of the implementation of the highest judiciary and education.

Druids:

Druids were the link between the supernatural world and the ordinary human one. They were able to predict what would happen in the future by interpreting nature. It is likely that they knew how to read and write, and they certainly had a good grasp of mathematics. They knew something of medicine and law, and they could trace the stars and the planets. The main centre of the druids in Britain was Anglesey, in Wales.

In Gaul the main centre of the Druids was the Carnutes forest



DRUIDS

In the Celtic religion the word Druidry means the practices of the ancient druids, the priestly class in ancient Celtic societies. Their influence was as much social as religious; infact they could be philosophers, scientists, teachers, judges and councillors to the King. The Druids linked the Celtic people with their numerous gods, the lunar calendar and the sacred natural order. The Ancient Order of Druids was founded in 1781 by Henry Hurle.



Historical precursors



- The Druid Revival (18th C.) (Meso-pagan Druidry)
- An Druidh Uileach Braithreachas (1717) - founded by John Toland (A.D.U.B.), Primrose Hill
 - “Druid Circle of the Universal Bond”
- Scholarly - likely to have been a “gentleman scholar’s” club, research rather than practice
- Concerned with inculcating celtic morality into British life (concern for hospitality, law, etc.)
- Two current groups - the *Ancient Druid Order* and The *Order of Bards, Ovates, and Druids* trace their lineage back to this group



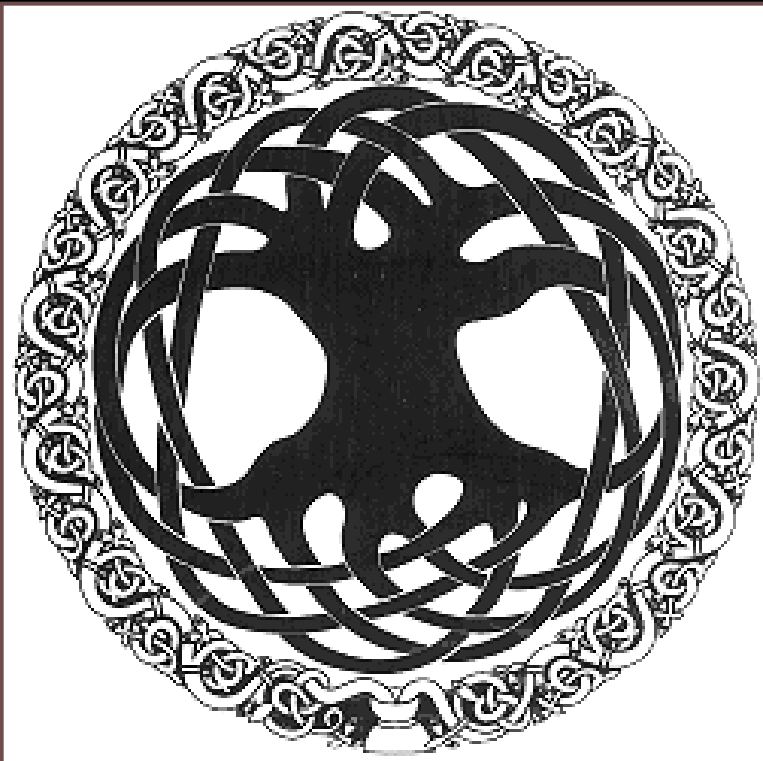
Our collective
lineage nurtures
individual power.
~Anguis



**The Druidic Group of Gaul is a pagan and
polytheist Group founded in 1987,
so thirthy year ago, in Burgundy
We belong to John's Toland filiation**



Worldview



- Animistic (nature is alive, animals, plants have souls)
- Pantheistic (world itself is divine)
- Panentheistic (nature is imbued with divine beings - gods of nature)
- Nature based
- World, body positively valued

Worldview



- Cyclical
- Reincarnation
- Cross-species interdependence (man eats salmon, becomes a druid, druid transforms into salmon, is eaten, so man can be born)
- Salmon of Wisdom

Worldview



- Magical Powers
- Sidhe (fairies)
- Psychic abilities
- Prayer

Worldview



- Rational
- Natural laws
- Scholarship, training, discipline
- Teach and Serve

Worldview



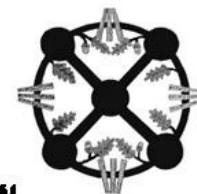
- Involved in society
- Wind listeners and whisperers
- Like the hummingbird we manage to do what we can

*Be the change
you wish
to see in the world.*



One day a terrible fire broke out in a forest / a huge woodlands was suddenly engulfed by a raging wild fire.

frightened, all the animals fled their homes and ran out of the forest.



As they came to the edge of a stream they stopped to watch the fire and they were feeling very discouraged and powerless.

They were all bemoaning the destruction of their homes. Every one of them thought there was nothing they could do about the fire,

except for one little hummingbird. This particular hummingbird decided it would do something.

It swooped into the stream and picked up a few drops of water and went into the forest and put them on the fire.

Then it went back to the stream and did it again, and it kept going back, again and again and again.

All the other animals watched in disbelief; some tried to discourage the hummingbird with comments like, "Don't bother, it is too much, you are too little,

your wings will burn, your beak is too tiny, it's only a drop, you can't put out this fire."

And as the animals stood around disparaging the little bird's efforts, the bird noticed how hopeless and forlorn they looked.

Then one of the animals shouted out and challenged the hummingbird in a mocking voice, "What do you think you are doing?"

And the hummingbird, without wasting time or losing a beat, looked back and said, "I am doing what I can."



Ethics

Grant, O God/ess, thy protection
And in protection, strength
And in Strength, understanding
And in understanding, knowledge
And in knowledge,
the knowledge of justice
And in the knowledge of justice,
the love of it
And in that love,
the love of all existences,
And in the love of all existences,
the love of god/dess
God/dess and all goodness.

- Triads
- “The People should worship the Gods, do no evil, and exercise courage”
- Universal Druid Prayer

THE DRUIDS' PRAYER

Eternal Spirit of Light, grant us protection;
And in that protection, security;
And in that security, knowledge;
And in that knowledge, awareness;
And in that awareness, the awareness
of the rightness of things;
And in that awareness, the love of it;
And through that love, to come to the
love of all Creation;
And in the love of all Creation,
the love of the Divine Spirit
And all Goodness, Beauty and Truth.



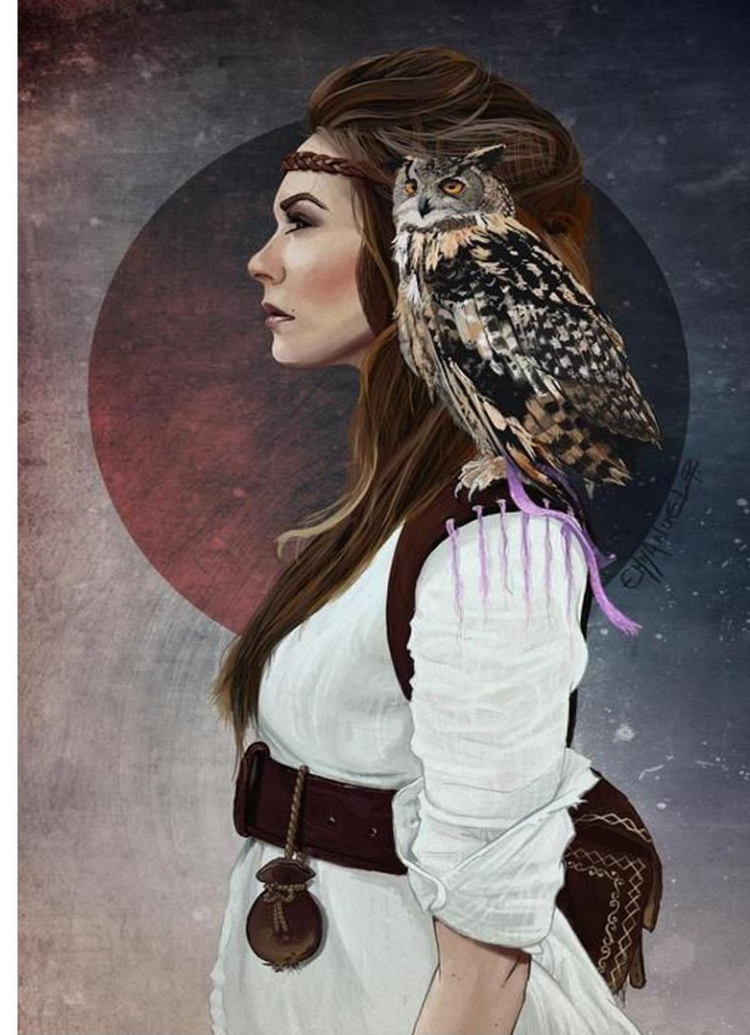
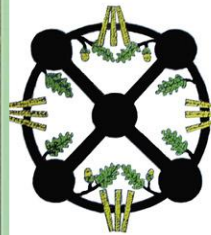


Three things
which we cannot control :
The void
The planet
The truth

Three marks of Wisdom :
Simplicity
Endeavor
Long suffering

Three things without
which one is not whole:

A mate
A home
A Craft



Three candles that illumine every darkness:
Truth, Nature and Knowledge

Honor your Gods
Practice courage
Don't do any harm

Honor your Gods
Love your woman
Protect your kin

Death is middle of life

The Truth against the World

KERNUNNOS

E PONA

LUGH

TARANIS

IMONA

ANDARTA

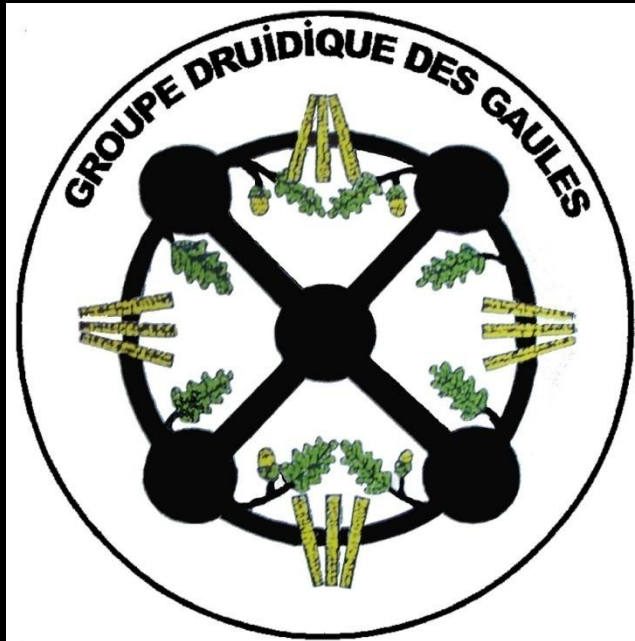


Polytheistic



Organization

Groves



- Bards (creativity, art, imagination, storyteller)
- Vates (healing, energy, oracles, channel)
- Gutuater (mysticism, ritual, theology, sacrifice, magic)
- Velledes (memory keeper, herald)
- Druids (scholarship, justice, wisdom, grove leadership, initiation)

Organization



- Celtic Reconstructionist Pagans (CR)
 - Four seasonal festivals only - Oiche Shamhna (Samhain), La Fheile Bride (feast of Brigid, or Imbolc), La Bealtaine (Beltain), and La Fheile Lunasa (lughnassa, lamas)
 - Attempt to stay true to archaeological, textual, identified sources, scientific evidence, etc.
 - Total rejection of any Christian emphasis

Rituals

A Blessing for the Trees

A nine-fold blessing of the sacred grove

Now be upon all forests of Earth:

For willow of the streams,

Hazel of the rocks,

Alder of the marshes,

Birch of the waterfalls,

Ash of the shade,

Yew of resilience,

Elm of the brae,

Oak of the sun,

And all trees that grow and live and breathe

On hill and brake and glen:

No axe, no saw, no fire shall harm you,

No mind of ownership shall seize you,

No hand of greed or profit claim you,

But grace of the stepping deer among you,

Strength of the running boar beneath you,

Power of the gliding hawk above you.

Deep peace of the running stream through your roots,

Deep peace of the flowering air through your boughs,

Deep peace of the shining stars on your leaves.

That the harp of the woods be heard once more

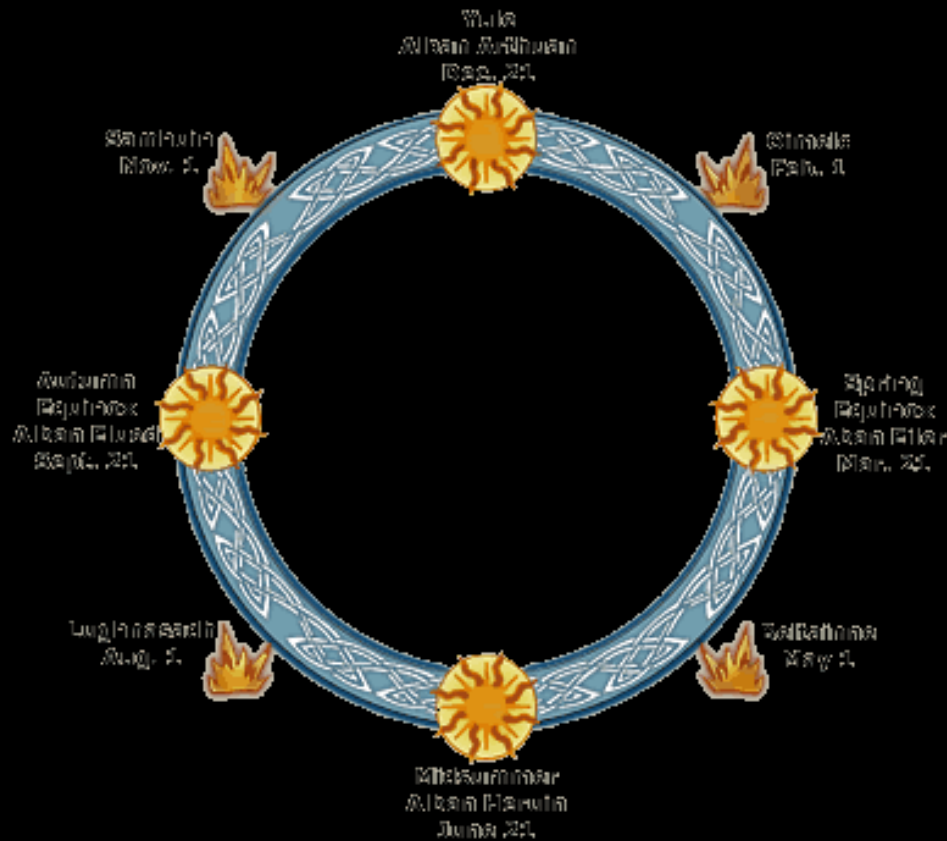
Throughout the green and living Earth.

Mara Freeman, Honorary Chief Bard of the Order of Bards, Ovates,
and Druids

Copyright 2001, The Order of Bards, Ovates, and Druids

- Fire, Well, Tree
- Ancestors, Nature spirits, Shining Ones
- Gallish pantheon
- The Wheel of the Year
- Inner initiation
- Handfasting
- Funeral

Rituals



The Wheel of the Year

- Yule (Alban Arthuan) Dec. 21
- Oimelc Feb. 1
- Spring Equinox (alban Eiler) Mar. 21
- Beltaine (May 1)
- Midsummer (alban Heruin) June 21
- Lughnasadh (Aug. 1)
- Autumn Equinox (Alban Elued) Sept. 21
- Samhuin (Oct. 21-Nov. 1)

DRUID COSMOLOGY



THE
SACRED
CENTER



Center: The Fire, The Well, & The Tree

THE KINDREDS

The Shining Ones (*Archangels & Deities*)

The Might Ones (*Ancestors*)

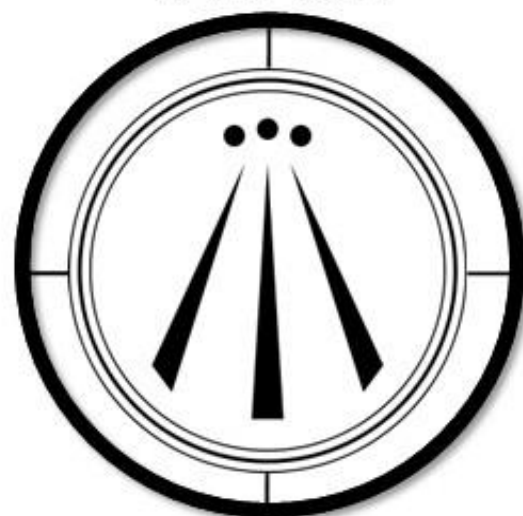
The Noble Ones (*Nature Spirits*)

Servants – Brown

Outsiders – Black

DRUID MEDICINE WHEEL

NORTH
Earth – Salt



WEST
Water

EAST
Air –
Smoke

SOUTH
Fire – Candle Flame

AWEN (Aah-ooo-enn) **INSPIRATION**

3 Bars of Light

3 Dots: Summer Solstice, Equinoxes, Winter Solstice

3 Circles of Existence: Circle of Abred, Circle of Gywnvd, & Circle of Ceugant

Druids – Priests (*white*)

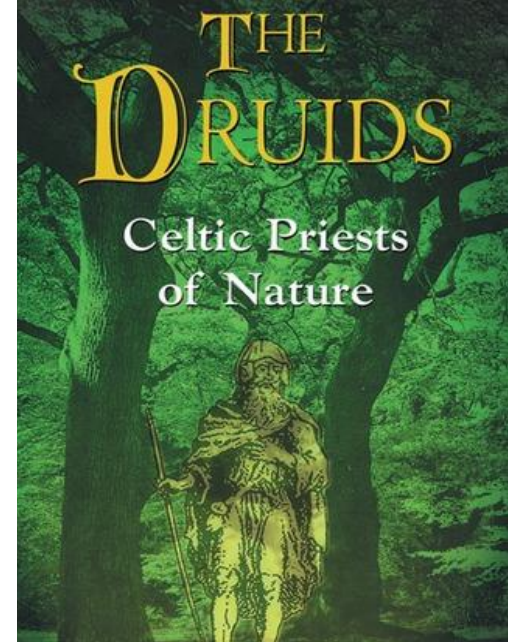
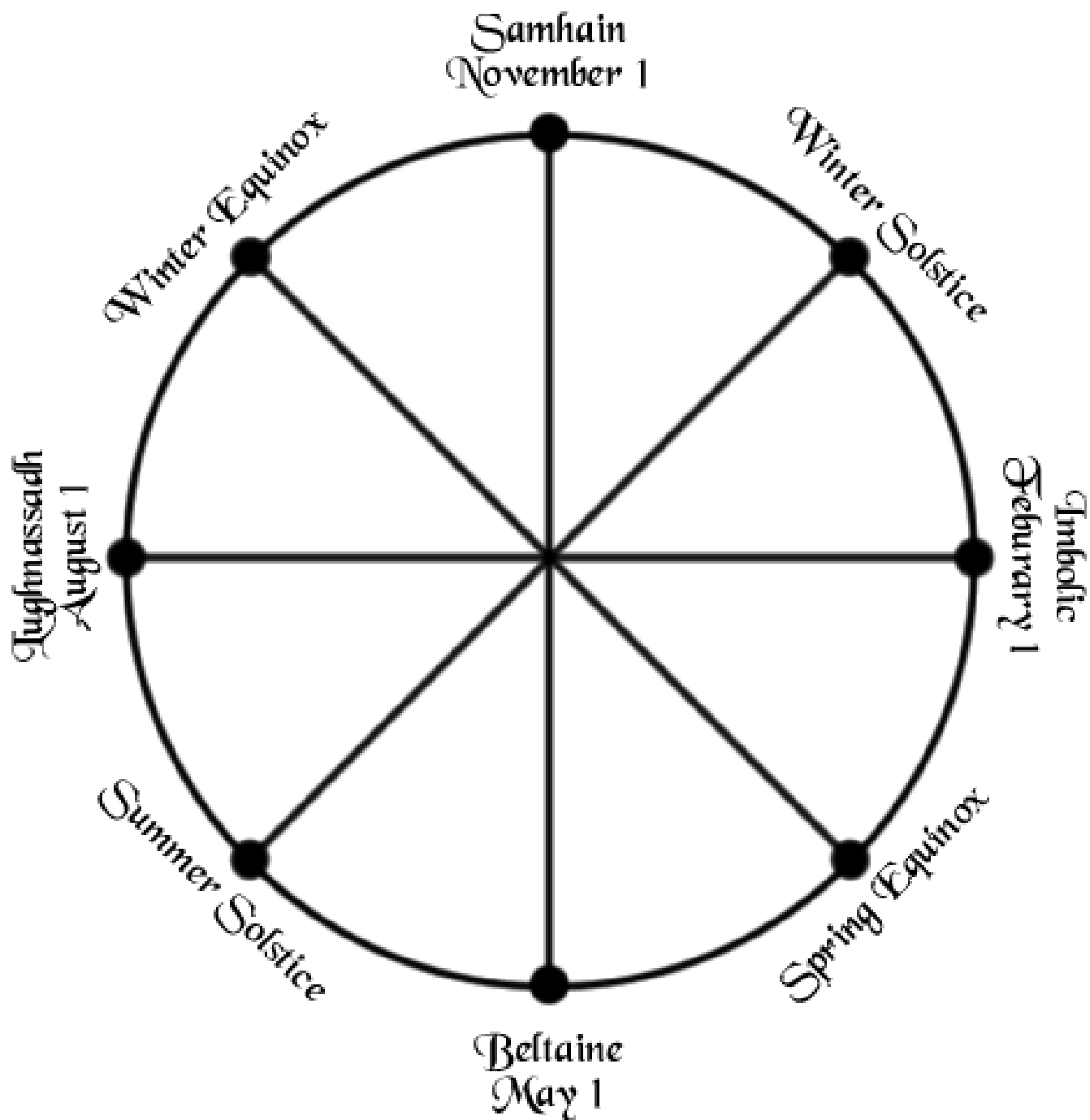
Bards – Singers, Poets, Historians (*blue*)

Ovates – Seers (*green*)

Equites – Chieftains & Kings

DRUID CALANDER







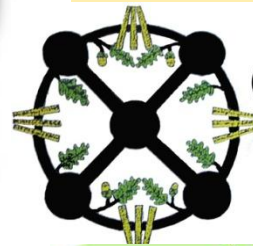


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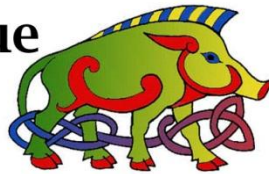


Family.

Like branches on a tree
our lives may grow in
different directions but
our roots will stay as one.



Groupe Druidique
des Gaules
1987 - 2017



"Add moonlight for contrast and shadowy suspense
Add sunlight for bright clarity and illumination
Mix them both in your soul-palette and
become the horizon, spreading into
your full expanse."

~Anguis